

WESTERN UNION  
FORMER EMPLOYEES

# INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

26456

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Action 00 RUEHCR  
L DE RUEHLL 001C 2131045  
ZNY CCCCC  
Info 0 P 011030Z ZEA

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
SS TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 14781  
G INFO ZEN/AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM PRIORITY FOUR  
AF RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY THREE  
EUR RUFHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 30  
P RUFHOL/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY SIX  
USIA ZEN/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 12  
NSC RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY SIX  
INR RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 36  
CIA ZEN/AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY TWO  
BT  
STATE GRNC

DOD  
E  
MC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AUGUST ONE  
SCA DEPT FOR NEUMAN L/AF  
SCS  
CAB MUNITIONS FLIGHT

FAA AS EXPECTED, LONDON SUNDAY TIMES, AUGUST 1, CARRIES HALF-PAGE  
FBI STORY TITLED "BREAKDOWN OF A FREELANCE GUN-RUNNING OPERATION."  
RSR ARTICLE DESCRIBES IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ATTEMPT CARRY ARMS  
FROM PRAGUE TO ALGERIA WHICH ABORTED IN MALTA LAST FEBRUARY.  
IT NAMES PICKETT, BEN DREW AND BERGER AS AMERICANS INVOLVED  
AND IDENTIFIES RIBA AS ARGENTINIAN. DEAL IS TRACED TO

PAGE 2 RUEHLL 201C

BONTE AND STARKMAN AND ON TO OAS FOR FINANCIAL BACKING.

BULK OF ARTICLE DESCRIBES IN DETAIL PRAGUE-ALGERIA-MALTA  
OPERATION. SAYS DUTCH SECURITY CIRCLES MAINTAIN INFORMATION  
ABOUT FLIGHT WAS PASSED TO AMERICANS BEFOREHAND, BUT INFO  
APPARENTLY FAILED TO GET THROUGH TO APPROPRIATE AGENCIES.  
ARTICLE ALSO SUGGESTS THAT "THERE IS FAR TOO LITTLE CON-  
SULTATION" AMONG VARIOUS NATIONS ABOUT SUCH OPERATIONS.  
DREW IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH CIVIL AIRLINE IN VIET-  
NAM INVOLVED IN CIA OPERATIONS, BUT HE IS QUOTED AS HAVING  
SAID HE WAS FIRED BY CIA. ARTICLE ENDS WITH QUESTION WHETHER  
PLAN TO TAKE ARMS OUT OF PRAGUE IS STILL WORKABLE PROPOSITION.

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2 AUG  
1965

SDOR

RF

DCI

D/DCI

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D/P

ADDP

1965 AUG 1 AM 7 00

DCI (MELIN)

CSIRF

DDI

061/UK2

061/EEC

061/AA/AF2

ONE

O-RR2

FBIS

HR/OPS

WE

EE-2

AFB

CA2

CA/02

C12

FE-1

DO

SID3

DD/115

FININT

OGC

BPA

46

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-2- 38, August 1, from London

COMMENT: ARTICLE IS UNSENSATIONAL AND LEAVES IMPRESSION BUNCH OF BUNGLING ADVENTURERS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES GOT INVOLVED FOR FINANCIAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL REASONS. ALTHOUGH NOTHING IS SAID TO SUGGEST USG ATTEMPTED REMOVE AMERICANS FROM OPERATION, NEITHER IS THERE ANY IMPLICATION THAT USG WAS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED.

BRUCE

BT

NOTE: Advance copy to S/S-O at 7:05 a.m., August 1, 1965

NOTE: Passed White House at 7:10 a.m., August 1, 1965

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